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App. No. 09/922,498  
Amendment B

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1 through 26 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 33-42 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Six claims are pending in the application: Claims 27 through 32.

Allowable Claims

1. At the outset, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 27-32 in the present application.

35 U.S.C. § 103

2. Claims 33-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,359,712 (Cohen et al.).

Claims 33-42 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus the rejection is overcome. While Applicant traverses this rejection claims 33-42 have been canceled in order to pursue the timely issuance of claims 27-32. Applicant may file a continuation to pursue claims 33-42 at which time the present rejection would be addressed on the merits.

Thus, Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a timely notice of allowance be issued.

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C O N C L U S I O N

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited. Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Thomas F. Lebens at (805) 781-2865 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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